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On *Lathrobium castaneipenne* KOLENATI (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Paederinae)

V. ASSING

A b s t r a c t : Based on a study of type material, *Lathrobium lineatocolle* SCRIBA 1859, previously a synonym of *L. castaneipenne* KOLENATI 1846, is revalidated and the following synonymy is established: *Lathrobium fulvipenne* (GRAVENHORST 1806) = *L. castaneipenne* KOLENATI 1846, nov.syn. A neotype is designated for *L. castaneipenne* and a lectotype is designated for *L. lineatocolle*.

K e y w o r d s : Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Paederinae, *Lathrobium*, Palaearctic region, revalidation, new synonymy, lectotype designation, neotype designation.

Introduction

According to SMETANA (2004), *Lathrobium castaneipenne* KOLENATI 1846, whose original description is based on material from "Iberia", has a trans-Palaearctic distribution ranging from Western Europe to China and the Russian Far East. The name has one junior synonym, *L. lineatocolle* SCRIBA 1859. Only recently it was discovered that what had been interpreted as *L. castaneipenne* is in fact a complex of at least two similar species, one of which was described as *L. permutatum* by ASSING (2009), based on material from Georgia. After the publication of this description, Lee H. Herman (New York) and Johannes Frisch (Berlin) kindly made me aware of the fact that the type locality "Iberia" in fact refers to a region in Georgia (see FRISCH 2009) and not to the Iberian Peninsula. Consequently, in order to clarify the identity of *L. castaneipenne* and the status of *L. permutatum* and *L. lineatocolle*, an examination of type material became indispensable.

Depositories

The material referred to in this study is deposited in the following public collections:

NHMW ..... Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (H. Schillhammer)
NMNHP ..... National Museum of Natural History, Praha (J. Hájek)
SDEI ..... Senckenberg Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Müncheberg (L. Behne, L. Zerche)
SMF ..... Senckenberg Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum, Frankfurt/Main (A. Hastenpflug-Vesmanis)

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Results

The original description of *Lathrobium castaneipenne* is based on an unspecified number of syntypes from "Iberia" (KOLENATI 1846). According to HORN et al. (1990), the Kolenati collection is deposited in the "Techn. Hochschule Brünn" (today Brno), with parts of the insect collection also housed in St. Petersburg and Prague. The collection in Brno - or parts of it - was moved to Prague (HÁJEK pers. comm.; SCHÜLKE pers. comm.), and no type material could be located in St. Petersburg (KATAEV pers. comm.). According to the curator in charge at the NMNHP, the Kolenati material in Prague is mainly confined to a faunistic beetle collection (HÁJEK, e-mail 11 Jan., 2010; 17 Feb., 2010). However, two specimens, a male and a female, identified by C. Koch as *L. castaneipenne*, mounted in exactly the same way (same labels, same pins) as material from the Kolenati collection, were found in the main collection. There are no locality labels attached to the pins, and, according to the curator, it is uncertain if these specimens have type status or not (HÁJEK pers. comm.). An examination of the male revealed that it is conspecific with *L. castaneipenne* sensu ASSING (2009), i.e., the species that is widespread in Europe, and not with *L. permutatum*.

Owing to lack of material from the Caucasus and adjacent regions, the distributions of *L. castaneipenne* sensu ASSING (2009) and *L. permutatum* are unclear, and the possibility that the former is distributed also in the Caucasus region cannot be ruled out. Moreover, *L. castaneipenne* and *L. permutatum* are highly similar to many other *Lathrobium* species with red elytra - misidentified specimens were common in the collections examined - and the genitalia of the original types of *L. castaneipenne* had never been studied, so that it is not even certain that the name refers to either of the two species in question.

In view of this confusion and in the interest of stability of nomenclature, it appears appropriate to dispose of the ambiguous name *L. castaneipenne* altogether by designating a neotype and synonymising it with the senior name *L. fulvipenne*, an externally highly similar and also very variable species that is widespread in the Caucasus region and apparently common also in Georgia:

Neotype ♂ [conspecific with *Lathrobium fulvipenne* (GRAVENHORST); aedeagus dissected], present designation: "Caucas. min. bor., Trialetskij Chreb., Bakuriani 1800-2200 m / 15.-20.VI.1987, leg. Wrase/Schülke / Lathrobium fulvipenne (Gravenhorst), det. V. Assing 2009 / Neotypus ♂ *Lathrobium castaneipenne* Kolenati, desig. V. Assing 2010" (NHMW).

Thus, the resulting synonymy is as follows: *Lathrobium fulvipenne* (GRAVENHORST 1806) = *L. castaneipenne* KOLENATI 1846, nov.syn.

For *L. castaneipenne* sensu ASSING (2009), the previous synonym *L. lineatocolle* is revalidated.

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Lathrobium lineatocolle SCRIBA 1859; revalidated

Lathrobium lineatocolle SCRIBA 1859: 414 f.
Lathrobium castaneipenne: ASSING (2009).

Type material examined: Lectotype ♂, present designation: "Hassia / lineatocolle Scriba[x] / coll. Kraatz / DEI Müncheberg / Lectotypus ♂ *Lathrobium lineatocolle* Scriba, desig. V. Assing 2010 / Lathrobium lineatocolle Scriba, det. V. Assing 2010" (SDEI). Paralectotype ♀ [photo examined]: "♀ / Selignstdt / Seligenstadt, Scriba / Czwal, ... [illegible] / Fauv. vid. / Coll. K. Neumann" (SMF).

Additional material examined: Romania: 1♂, 1♀, "Marmaros-Sziget" (NHMW). For previously studied material see ASSING (2009).

Comment: The original description is based on two male and four female syntypes collected "im Anspülicht des Mains bei Seligenstadt" (SCRIBA 1859). The specimen in the Kraatz collection at the SDEI only has the label "Hassia" attached to it, but there is little doubt that it represents one of the male syntypes. According to BEHNE (pers. comm.), Kraatz was in the habit of marking type specimens with an asterisk behind the species name (see cited labels above). The specimen is here designated as the lectotype. According to HASTENPFLUG-VESMANIS (E-mail, 3 Feb., 2010), there is a female syntype (now a paralectotype) also in the collections of the SMF. The labels are cited above based on a photograph.

Lathrobium lineatocolle has been regarded as a synonym of *L. castaneipenne* at least since EPPELSHEIM (1879). It is now reinstated for the species that has been interpreted as *L. castaneipenne* by most previous authors and that is widespread at least in Europe and has been reported also from the East Palaearctic region.

For characters separating *L. lineatocolle* from *L. permutatum* and illustrations of the male sexual characters see ASSING (2009).

Lathrobium permutatum ASSING 2009

Additional material examined: Caucasus region: 2♂♂, "Kaukas", leg. Leder (NHMW).

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Zusammenfassung

Aufgrund von Typenuntersuchungen wird *Lathrobium lineatocolle* SCRIBA 1859, bisher Synonym von *L. castaneipenne* KOLENATI 1846, revalidiert, und *L. castaneipenne* KOLENATI 1846, nov.syn., wird mit *L. fulvipenne* (GRAVENHORST 1806) synonymisiert. Für *L. castaneipenne* wird ein Neotypus, für *L. lineatocolle* ein Lectotypus designiert

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